(c) whether import of animals has posed a great threat to the country; and

(d) if so, the concrete steps taken by Government in this regard and the action taken against the officers found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir. As per the current Exim Policy, the import of all animals except grand parent stock of poultry is in the restricted list of imports.

(b) The Government has set up an Expert Group which also includes a representative of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, to examine the cases of import of animals from health angle. As such. No Objection Certificates are issued for import of animals only after due consideration, in consultation with the ICAR.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to part (c).

Market Intervention Scheme for palm oil farmers in Andhra Pradesh

4288. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of palm oil was fixed at Rs. 25,000/- per MT in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is also a fact that an average sale realization was achieved at Rs. 20,066/- per MT which, during July, 2001, increased upto Rs. 23,550/-, still lower than the Market Intervention Scheme;

(c) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Union Government to continue the Market Intervention Scheme till the end of October, 2001, to save the farmers; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government for protection of farmers in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) No, Sir. However, Market Intervention Scheme

(MIS) for Palm Oil in Andhra Pradesh during 2001 season was sanctioned with the condition that if the price of Crude Palm Oil (CPO) touches the level of Rs. 25,000/- per MT, MIS would automatically cease.

(b) No, Sir. The weighted average price of CPO was Rs. 20594/- per MT in June 2001 and Rs. 26,903/- per MT in July 2001. The weighted average price in July 2001 was above the level of Rs. 25,000/- per MT stipulated under the MIS.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per terms and conditions of the MIS, the procurement of Plam Oil in Andhra Pradesh has been stopped as the price of CPO was ruling above the level of Rs. 25,000/-per MT. The request received from the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is under consideration.

Remission of interest on loans to farmers in Chhattisgarh

4289. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether farmers have committed suicides in different parts of Chhattisgarh, due to burden of debt;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the State has refused to grant remission of interest on loans to farmers;

(d) whether the State Government has written to the Centre, seeking financial support for the waiver scheme; and

(e) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) to (c) The Government of Chhattisgarh have informed that no report on such suicides has been received from any District Collector.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. The matter is under examination.